IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the Claims as follows:

1. (original) A method of screening or testing for candidate anti-fungal compounds that impair 1-phosphotidylinositol-4-phosphate 5-kinase enzyme (MSS4) function, comprising:

a) providing fungal MSS4;

b) providing one or more candidate compounds;

c) contacting said MSS4 with said one or more candidate compounds; and

d) determining the interaction of the candidate compound with said MSS4.

2. (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the MSS4 comprises a fragment, a function-conservative variant, an active fragment or a fusion protein of MSS4.

3. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the fungal MSS4 is from fungus of *Candida* or *Aspergillus* species.

4. (original) A modified eukaryotic cell(s) wherein the cell(s) expresses fungal MSS4 under the control of a heterologous promoter.

5. (original) The cell according to claim 4 which is a *C. albicans* cell.

6. (currently amended) The cell according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 4 ~~or 5~~, wherein the MSS4 is homologous.

7. (currently amended) The cell according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 4 ~~to 5~~, wherein the MSS4 comprises a fragment, a function-conservative variant, an active fragment or a fusion protein of MSS4.

8. (currently amended) A method of screening or testing for candidate anti-fungal compounds that impair 1-phosphotidylinositol-4-phosphate 5-kinase enzyme (MSS4) function, comprising:

a) providing fungal MSS4 in a eukaryotic cell(s) as defined in ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 4 ~~to 7~~;

b) providing one or more candidate compounds;

c) contacting said eukaryotic cell(s) with said one or more candidate compounds; and

d) determining the interaction of the candidate compound with said MSS4 by assessing the effect on growth or viability of said cells.

9. (currently amended) A compound identified by the method of claim[[s]] 1, ~~2, 3 or 8,~~ which impairs MSS4 function for use as an antifungal compound.

10. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a MSS4 inhibitor and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

11. (original) *Candida* or *Aspergillus* MSS4 as a specific target for antifungal compounds.

12. (canceled)

13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended) The ~~use~~ method according to claim 18 ~~12 or 13~~ wherein the fungal infection is a topical, mucosal or systemic fungal infection.

15. (currently amended) The ~~use~~ method according to claim 14 wherein the topical or mucosal fungal infection is caused by species of *Candida* or the systemic fungal infection is caused by species of *Candida* or *Aspergillus*.

16. (currently amended) The ~~use~~ method according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 18 ~~12 to 15~~ wherein said compound impairs fungal MSS4 function to a greater extent than host MSS4 function.

17. (new) A compound identified by the method of claim 8, which impairs MSS4 function for use as an antifungal compound.

18. (new) A method for the treatment or prevention of fungal infections in a host, which comprises administering to the host a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of a MSS4 inhibitor.

19. (new) A method for the treatment or prevention of fungal infections in a subject who is immunosuppressed, which comprises the step of administering to the subject a therapeurtically or prophylactically effective amount of a MSS4 inhibitor.

20. (new) The method according to claim 19 wherein the fungal infection is a topical, mucosal or systemic fungal infection.

21. (new) The method according to claim 19 wherein the topical or mucosal fungal infection is caused by species of *Candida* or the systemic fungal infection is caused by species of *Candida* or *Aspergillus*.

22. (new) The method according to claim 19 wherein said compound impairs fungal MSS4 function to a greater extent than host MSS4 function.